

>> March 2021

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION IN THE INDO-PACIFIC



GPE is the only global fund and partnership dedicated to helping children in low-income countries gain a quality education.

GPE'S UNIQUE APPROACH IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

GPE has significantly increased its footprint in the Indo-Pacific to help partner countries strengthen their education systems and get the most vulnerable girls and boys in school, improve teaching and learning, and build resilient education systems. GPE brings together all key partners at country level to support one national education strategy. Ensuring that children have access to education during conflict and crises is a top priority with over 60% of its global support directed to countries in crisis.

RESULTS SINCE 2020:



160

MILLION

more children in school in GPE partner countries.



TWICE

AS MANY GIRLS enrolled in school and on the path to gender equality.



OVER
US\$500
MILLION

for the COVID-19 global education response.



US\$6
BILLION

saved through efficiencies in education spending.



MORE THAN
US\$882
MILLION

generated through the GPE Multiplier for education since 2018.

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH EDUCATION

GPE has a strong record in breaking down barriers that prevent girls from getting a quality education and reaching their fullest potential. Since GPE began working in 2002, 82 million more girls are in school, primary school enrolment for girls has increased 65%, and 69% of partner countries are at or close to gender parity in primary school completion. Now GPE is working to ensure that every girl can gain 12 years of quality education.

INNOVATING AT SCALE

The **GPE Multiplier** supports countries in leveraging more funding for education. For every US\$3 raised in new external funding, GPE will provide an additional \$1. Having generated more than US\$882 million for education since 2018, the instrument is on track to help mobilize nearly a billion dollars in total co-financing by the end of 2020. The following Indo-Pacific countries have accessed the Multiplier: Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Nepal, with interest from Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

GPE'S EDUCATION RESPONSE TO COVID-19

COVID-19 has created the biggest disruption to education that the world has ever seen. The combined impact of school closures and economic hardship could push millions of vulnerable children out of education and reverse decades of hard-won gains.

GPE quickly mobilized over US\$500 million dollars to support partner countries' pandemic response. GPE is the biggest provider of grants for COVID-19 education response.

GPE's COVID fund is helping governments sustain learning for up to 355 million children in the poorest countries, with a sharp focus on remote learning, teacher support, and safe reopening of schools.



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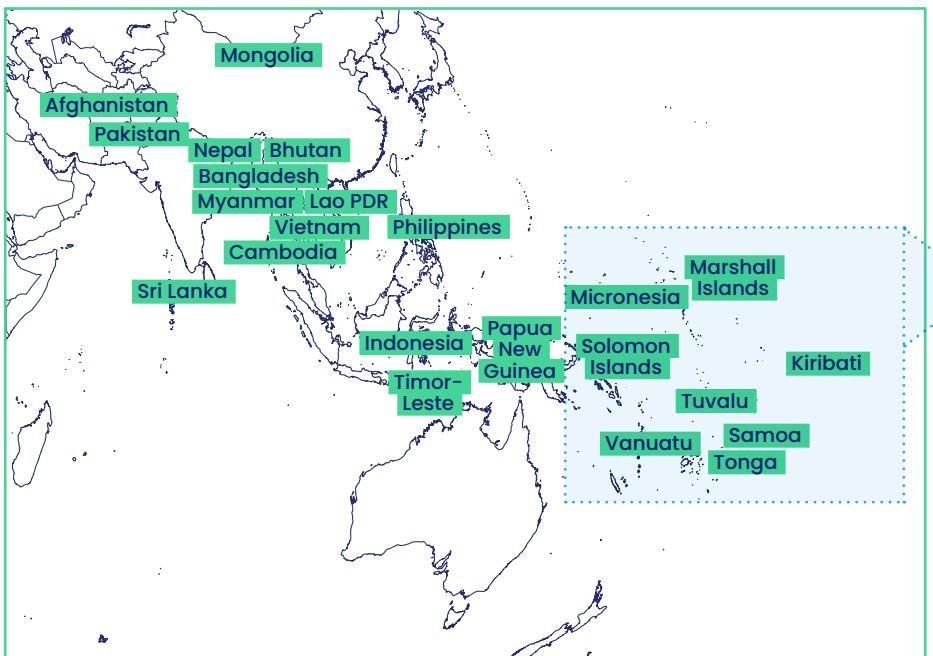
GPE has provided US\$101.69 million in the Indo-Pacific region through its COVID Accelerated Fund to support countries in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and help continue learning opportunities for every boy and girl.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Australia has been an active partner of GPE since 2008 contributing A\$90 million from 2018–2020. Australia is represented on GPE's Board and serves on its Coordinating Committee. Australia is also a key partner at the country level, active through Local Education Groups. As Coordinating Agent for grants in PNG, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Vanuatu, Tonga and Tuvalu, Australia serves a leadership role in ensuring partners are aligned, facilitating grant applications and building capacity in country. Moreover, GPE and Australia are strengthening broader Pacific regionalism in education together through the development of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) – which will serve as a guidepost for all 15 countries in the region – with GPE funding support.

AUSTRALIA HAS CONTRIBUTED AUD500 MILLION TO GPE DURING THE LAST THREE REPLENISHMENT CYCLES.

With support from Australia, GPE has provided **US\$1,181.4 million** to the following Indo-Pacific countries:



Eight Pacific Island countries joined GPE since August 2020 and have secured much needed COVID-19 funding (US\$0.75M for each country):

Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Federated States of Micronesia.

GPE recently approved a US\$15 million grant to support the "PacREF" regional educational framework as well as **US\$2.5 million for Micronesia** for compulsory early childhood education, and **US\$3 million for teacher development and inclusive education in Vanuatu**.

Fiji also recently became eligible for GPE funding.

GPE IN ACTION:

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESPONDS TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Australia and GPE are supporting the government of Papua New Guinea to ensure students continue learning during the pandemic and help build the education system's capacity to resist future crises. To mitigate the impact of the virus in the education sector, GPE provided US\$9.44 million grant funding to PNG to support:

- development of the national **COVID-19 Education Response plan**
- launch of **radio and TV programs** to broadcast English, math and science lessons
- educational resources for teachers and students on the ministry's website – accessed by more than **300,000 students, including 168,000 girls**

- Facilitation of enrolment of out-of-school children in **flexible, open and distance education**
- dissemination of **health and hygiene information** through TV, radio and SMS
- provision of **learning kits** to children in the most remote areas
- a national **back-to-school campaign**, giving children incentive kits with learning materials, solar lamps and stationery.